

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Park Service this summer will offer three fee-free weekends at the nation's 391 national parks.

"This opportunity from the National Park Service is a great tool to expose more Americans to our national parks and monuments," said Rep. Sam Farr. "From Yellowstone to Yosemite to Pinnacles National Monument in our own backyard, these national treasures offer affordable vacations to some of the most beautiful places in America."

The 147 National Park Service sites across the country that charge fees for entry will waive these entrance fees during the weekends of June 20-21, July 18-19, and August 15-16. This include Pinnacles National Monument in San Benito County.

"During these tough economic times, our national parks provide opportunities for affordable vacations for families," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "I encourage everyone to visit one of our nation's crown jewels this summer and especially to take advantage of the three free-admission weekends."

In addition to the fee waiver, many park partners from tour operators and gift shops to hotels and restaurants will offer discounts and promotions on those dates. More information can be found here: <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm> .

The waiver includes entrance fees to all parks and does not include other fees such as those for camping, reservations, tours and concessions.

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